

William Trickett

Legislative Testimony Speech

20 February 2012

Legislators of our State, I would like address a subject which is very important to me, and has been for the past four years. My name is William Trickett, and I am from the Storrs Regional FFA Chapter. Our chapter is based in the Agricultural Education program at Edwin O. Smith High School, where students are educated in the agricultural sciences in the classroom, and in leadership by their membership in the FFA. I was enrolled in agricultural education my freshman year, with little more than an interest in studying agriculture. I had no indication that as a senior I would be where I am today as a result of the program. When I became a student in the agricultural classrooms, I learned skills that would not only help me accomplish tasks in the agricultural field, but also life lessons. The classroom experience uniquely incorporated knowledge from other academic areas such as writing and mathematics, as well as safety, logic, common sense, and responsibility. A major component of the FFA experience that I had was leadership, something that has brought all of you here today. I had opportunities to attend leadership conferences, prepare and deliver speeches, and become an FFA officer in my Chapter, of which I am now president. I was able to travel across the country, develop career plans, and overcome challenges, such as the fear of public speaking; all of this being a result of my involvement in my local FFA chapter. My classmates and fellow members have also had experiences that we would have never had if it was not for the agriculture education program. I have watched each one of them grow significantly as individuals, and motivated to be the leaders of tomorrow, and the well-educated professionals in various fields for years to come. Funding for our Ag schools is very important, so Ag teachers can continue the work they do in changing the

lives of their students. Agricultural Education programs are known for their ability to inspire young people nationwide, and our fine state is no exception. The students who leave our programs are focused, motivated, and determined individuals who have bright futures ahead of them. Is that not the mission of public education? Thank you.